

Further to previous emails with regard to COVID-19 testing kits, we wanted to provide you with a brief update.

First, we want to draw school administrators' attention to **PCR Test Kits** (provided by Sick Kids, Michael Garron Hospital, or Women's College Hospital) that have started to be distributed to schools. These tests are to be provided to students/staff for investigative purposes in cases where there are dismissed classes or outbreaks. Toronto Public Health, working with the hospitals, will advise you when these kits should be used and by whom. Please keep these test kits in a safe area until you are instructed to use them.

Schools and administrative buildings now have received **Rapid Antigen Test Kits**, which are to be used by staff who are not completely vaccinated (i.e. 14 days past final vaccination) or who have not yet disclosed their COVID-19 vaccination status as required by the Ministry of Education and in compliance with the TDSB's Mandatory Vaccination Procedure.

These tests are to be conducted by staff at home, and staff are to document their negative result in the TDSB Health Screening App (the Now Mobile app or on the health screening web portal), as part of their daily self-assessment each Monday and Thursday before attending work. Please note, that only for this week, because of the late timing, we are allowing staff to report on Friday, September 24.

Each box has 25 tests and includes 25 parts that need to be used together: 25 vials, 25 vial tops, 25 swabs, 25 rapid test devices, one solution bottle, 1 positive control device, 1 negative control device and 1 box. **Please do not open the boxes and split up the contents -- staff should take one entire, unopened box** (please see attached photo). Each box should last for 12.5 weeks use by one staff member. Should you need additional kits please order through the Distribution Centre (material #10811). They should be stored between 2 and 30 degrees C, and are not to be frozen.

Please keep these test kits in a secure area and distribute them to staff upon request. Please ensure the test kit is distributed in a way that respects the staff member's privacy as much as possible (e.g., only one point of contact – Principal or Manager – for kits in each school or site). To further ensure privacy, staff also have the option to pick a kit up at a central location – 1 Civic

Centre Court, 140 Borough Drive or 3 Tippet Road – Monday through Friday, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., starting Thursday, September 23. Staff may also request to have the testing kits delivered to their school anonymously by emailing [tdsbkits@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:tdsbkits@tdsb.on.ca).

Should you have any questions, please contact [Occupational Health and Safety](#).

Please note that vaccine tracking, enforcement, and education, etc. is being handled at the central level. Principals and/or Managers are not responsible for encouraging staff to be vaccinated, nor are they responsible for vaccine-related education. Please do not engage in conversations with employees about their reasons for not getting the vaccine or being exempt and harassment of any kind, including any linked to an employee's vaccine status, will not be tolerated.

Our job as leaders is to create safe, welcoming and inclusive environments for both staff and students. Thank you for your continued support of this work.



